

torture for him. I have never met a man for whom I had a higher respect or regard. It is very hard on the Baroness.

To AMBASSADOR DAVID J. HILL,  
Berlin, Germany.

OYSTER BAY,  
September 10,  
1908.

It was kind of you to write me in full of the funeral of my dear friend Sternburg. He was just that to me—a dear friend—and I mourn his loss. A more upright, fearless, and disinterested public servant, a more faithful and loyal friend, I have never seen.

One of the last letters Roosevelt wrote from the White House was in relation to the baseless rumors that had been circulating freely for a year or more about his drinking habits. To a gentleman in New York who was disturbed by them, he wrote on February 25, 1909:

"It happens that in the matter of drinking I am an extremely abstemious man; I suppose that no man not a total abstainer could well drink less than I do; and whiskey and brandy I practically never touch. The accusation that I ever have been addicted in the slightest degree to drinking to excess, or to drinking even wine—and liquor, as I say, I practically never touch—in any but the most moderate way, is not only the blackest falsehood but an utterly ridiculous falsehood; it does not represent any distortion or exaggeration; it has no slightest base in fact; it is simply malignant invention—just as sheer an invention as if they had said that at the age of five I had poisoned my grandmother or had been mixed up in the

assassination  
of. Lincoln by Wilkes Booth. One accusation  
would be  
exactly as infamous and exactly as ludicrous  
as the other."

Several years later, in October 1912, when  
the editor of  
a Western newspaper published an article  
making definite  
charges that Eoosevelt was an intemperate  
man, he, think-  
ing the time had arrived to put a stop to such  
slanders once